

# NLC confirms one dead, 14 injured in auto crash in A-Ibom

**UYO** — NIGERIA Labour Congress, NLC, in Akwa Ibom State, yesterday, confirmed the death of one of its leaders in an accident on Wednesday while monitoring workers' compliance with NLC warning strike.

Comrade Unyime Usoro, the NLC State Chairman, told the News Agency of Nigeria, NAN, in Uyo that 14 other leaders also sustained serious injuries in the accident.

According to Usoro, the deceased, whom he refused to disclose his identity, passed away on Wednesday night.

"Some 15 labour leaders were involved in a serious accident; some have been treated and discharged from the hospital, while others are still receiving treatment.

"One person died last night," Usoro said.

The labour leaders had gone out very early on Wednesday to enforce compliance with the three days warning strike declared by NLC nationwide.

Though the NLC and TUC called off the strike on Wednesday night, the sad experience in Akwa

Ibom and the attitude of the state government towards the demands of health and judiciary workers, may ignite another round of strike.

Health and judiciary workers have yet to receive the consolidated salary scale of their different unions in the state even af-

ter calling off their earlier strike several months ago.

The NLC and TUC officials after a meeting on Wednesday night with the Federal Government's team led by the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Mr. Emeka Wogu, called off the three-day warning strike.

The agreement reached between labour leaders and the Federal Government is subject to approval by the National Council of State at its next meeting on November 25, before a Bill for the new minimum wage will be sent to the National Assembly for passage into law.

## Kidnapped UBTH ex-CMD regains freedom

By Simon Ebegbulem

**BENIN CITY** — THE former Chief Medical Director, CMD, of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, UBTH, Professor Eugene Okpere, who was abducted last Sunday by kidnappers, regained his freedom, yesterday, after the family allegedly paid N2.5 million ransom.

Despite his release, the Edo State chapter of the Nigerian Medical Association, NMA, yesterday, vowed to continue its protest strike against what it described as the incessant abduction of doctors in the state until their movement is guaranteed by relevant

authorities.

It was learnt that the family and friends of the kidnapped former CMD contributed the money for his release. But the state chairman of the NMA, Dr. Philip Ugbodaga, however, denied that ransom was paid to the kidnappers.

The doctors who protested to the state Government House is Benin City in their hundreds, regretted that government had not done enough to curb the excesses of kidnappers in the state. They insisted they will not leave the Government House until an official of the state government addressed them.

The doctors in a protest letter to the governor and signed by the Secretary of the association, Dr. Emmanuel Ugbodaga, said they would not suspend the

mission of inquiry into the Ogida police/army clash in Benin City and the immediate deployment of military personnel to stamp out kidnapping as was recently done in Abia State.

## Uduaghan: Falak failure to involve

By Samuel Oyadongha

**YENAGOA** — LAGOS Lawyer, Mr. Femi Falana, yesterday, expressed dismay over the failure of the court to invoke section 149 of the 2006 Electoral Act on persons found wanting in the conduct of elections in the country.

The human rights lawyer in an interview in Yenagoa against the backdrop of the

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